

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PER-01 /018 W

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R 211643Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2267

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1148

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CI

SUBJ: NOMINATION OF COMMANDER, US MILITARY GROUP, CHILE

REF: (A) STATE 037270; (B) SANTIAGO 996

1. UNFORTUNATELY, NOMINATION PROPOSED REF (A) DOES NOT REPEAT NOT RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS RAISED REF (B). IT ADDRESSES ITSELF ONLY TO THE SINGLE QUESTION OF THE IDENTITY OF THE NEW COMUSMILGP. THERE REMAINS THE FACT THAT THE NOMINATION PROPOSED WILL INVOLVE THE SIMULTANEOUS INSTALLATION OF A NEW COMUSMILGP AND NEW CHIEFS OF ALL THREE MILGP SERVICE SECTIONS, OR NEW CHIEFS FOR TWO SECTIONS AND A PROBLEM WITH THE THIRD, IN ADDITION TO THE PLANNED JUNE/AUGUST NORMAL ROTATION OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE SECTION, THE MILGP PLANS/ADMIN OFFICER, AND THE ARMY SECTION ENGINEER/TRNG OFFICER.

2. CAPTAIN DAVIS, PRESENT COMUSMILGP, HAS HAD THE ONEROUS TASK OF TRYING TO PERFORM SIMULTANEOUSLY AS COMUSMILGP AND CHIEF OF THE NAVY SECTION OF THE MILGP. THIS HAS BEEN AN UNFORTUNATE SITUATION FOR HIM, FOR THE MILGP, AND FOR THIS MISSION. NEVERTHELESS, WECAUSE OF THIS "DOUBLE-HATTING" HIS DEPARTURE WILL REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW CHIEF OF THE NAVY SECTION IN ADDITION TO A NEW COMUSMILGP.

3. PROPOSED NOMINEE FOR COMUSMILGP, COL. GEORGE, IS INCUMBENT CHIEF OF ARMY SECTION OF MILGP. IN RESPONSE TO MY OBJECTIONS TO THE "DOUBLE-HATTING" OF COMUSMILGP AS

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A MILGP SECTION CHIEF, I HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE NEW COMUSMILGP

WILL NOT CONTINUE TO CARRY MILGP SECTION CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES.  
AS A RESULT, IF COL. GEORGE WERE TO BECOME COMUSMILGP WE  
WOULD ALSO HAVE TO INSTALL A NEW CHIEF OF THE ARMY SECTION  
OF THE MILGP.

4. JCS HAS RECOMMENDED THAT PROPOSED NOMINEE BE ASSIGNED AS  
COMUSMILGP BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT  
THIS WILL GIVE HIM COMMAND AUTHORITY, INCLUDING RATING  
RESPONSIBILITY, OVER ALL MILGP SECTION CHIEFS, INCLUDING AIR  
FORCE SECTION CHIEF WHO IS SENIOR TO HIM. THIS IS NOT A HEALTHY  
SITUATION; WITHOUT ANY CRITICISM OF EITHER OF THE OFFICERS  
INVOLVED, I DOUBT WE CAN EXPECT THE AIR FORCE SECTION OF THE  
MILGP TO PERFORM PROPERLY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN FACT,  
I EXPECT THAT THE CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE SECTION WILL WISH TO  
BE TRANSFERRED IF THE PROPOSED NOMINEE WHO IS JUNIOR TO HIM  
BECOMES COMUSMILGP. IF AIR FORCE ACCEDES TO HIS WISHES, WE  
SHALL THEN HAVE TO INSTALL A NEW CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE  
SECTION OF MILGP, SO THAT THIS SLOT AS WELL AS THOSE OF CHIEFS  
OF THE OTHER TWO SERVICE SECTIONS WILL BE FILLED BY NEW OFFICER.  
IF AIR FORCE INSISTS THAT INCUMBENT REMAIN AT POST UNDER THESE  
CIRCUMSTANCES, I DOUBT THAT THE ENSUING WORKING RELATIONSHIPS  
WOULD BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE OFFICERS INVOLVED, THE MILGP,  
OR THIS MISSION.

5. I AM RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THIS KIND OF WHOLESAL REPLACEMENT  
OF SENIOR MILGP INCUMBENTS AT A MOMENT WHEN THE CONGRESSIONAL  
BAN ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHILE HAS MADE OUR RELATIONS  
WITH THE CHILEAN MILITARY MUCH MORE SENSITIVE AND CAUSED THEM  
TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF THE MILGP AS A POSSIBLE  
ISSUE IF MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS NOT RESUMED.

6. ACTION: REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONSULT WITH DOD CONCERNING  
MY PROBLEMS WITH THIS COURSE OF ACTION AND INFORM ME, WITH  
JUSTIFICATION, IF BOTH DEPARTMENTS CONSIDER IT PREFERABLE TO  
PURSUE THE NOMINATION PROPOSED REF (A), IN PLACE OF OUR  
SUGGESTIONS IN PARA 6 REF (B).  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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